

By A.B.

Page 1.

First Reel.

Fourth Release.

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Main title

WILD MEN
OF AFRICA

JUN -2 1921

Paramount-Vanderbergh Exploration Series.

No. 4

"THE LAND OF THE PYGMIES"

Edited and Titled by Ernest Maas.

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26ft

Subtitle

Foreword.

In presenting these motion pictures of savage life in Central Africa and the Congo, we wish to acknowledge the leadership of Dr. L. J. Vanderbergh who directed the expedition and the skill of Dr. George B. Shattuck who photographed this series.

25"

Subtitle

It was in passing through Kavirondo Land that we came upon the most amazing war bonnets and other evidences of bestial savagery.

17"

Scene

Shot of native wearing huge bonnet of feathers, similar to that worn by our own drum majors.

9"

Subtitle

The women wear nothing but a string of beads.

7"

Scene

Closeup of woman standing in front of hut - balancing earthen jar on her head - she is scantily clad and wears strings of beads.

8"

Subtitle

---- so as not to hide the horrible scarifications designed to enhance their beauty.

13"

Scene

Closeup of the woman's torso with fantastic designs carved in the skin.

6"

Subtitle

When a warrior dies they hoist his war-bonnet over the village and howl for a month.

9"

Scene

Medium shot of village huts - a bonnet strung up on a pole is floating idly in the breeze over a hut.

15"

Subtitle

Friends come in from many miles to dance and mourn around the hut---

9"

Scene

several of the dead warrior's friends properly attired for the occasion approach his hut wailing and dancing. Some enter the hut to take a last look.

20"

Subtitle	---- while this cheerful orchestra works overtime to drive the devil away ----	8ft
Scene	Medium shot of native industriously playing on a crude form of harp - he is his own accompanist and sings.	20"
Subtitle	---- and the rest of the act joins in the chorus.	8"
Scene	Shot of two natives who slowly dance around one another playing on crude bassons, with large hollow bottoms.	22"
Subtitle	As a final guard against spooks, the dead man's favorite bull is put on the job -- and then they make themselves miserable all over again.	18"
Scene	Man driving bull into the hut, which refuses to go in but they prod it.	14"
Subtitle	On our long march we delayed a month among the Baganda, the cleverest people of Central Africa. Their huts are the last word in grass construction.	16"
Scene	Medium view of an advanced type of hut construction. It really is a beauty and artistically constructed.	16"
Subtitle	Everything is built of elephant grass that is first dried in the sun.	8"
Scene	Two natives drying large stalks of elephant grass in the sun.	13"
Subtitle	---- they make surprisingly strong fences.	5"
Scene	The two natives now weave a criss-cross fence which is very fancy but durable. Their work is evidence of cleaner living than that of their brother tribes.	20"
Subtitle	The king's fence is especially artistic and strong.	6"
Scene	Shot of the fence surrounding the king's "palace" It is of checkerboard design and very well made indeed.	12"
Subtitle	Meet the King!	3"
Scene	A congregation of white-turbaned, fully clothed, surround the King who is elaborately robed and also wears a decoration significant of his kingly power - they all seem happy and the procession begins to move.	17"
Scene	View of native band of musicians in front of an enormous hut, playing and dancing for the king's pleasure.	12"

Subtitle	---- a wicked hip ----	3ft
Scene	Closeup of the large band playing in honor of the King. An old dancer in foreground does the shimmy.	19"
Subtitle	---- and then we slipped over to the chief's tailor and watched him make some B.V.D. barkcloth.	12"
Scene	Shot of native stripping bark off large palm tree.	22"
Subtitle	The rough surface is scraped smooth.	6"
Scene	Long bark strips flat on the ground - the tailor scrapes off the rough fibre with a rude chisel.	14"
Subtitle	The interlocking fibres of the bark allow it to spread under the hammer without breaking.	10"
Scene	Closeup of the tailor using a stone mallet on the bark which continues to widen and widen.	17"
Subtitle	It grows faster than the grocer's bill.	5"
Scene	Two of the natives lustily hammering away at the cloth which is now about three yards long.	13"
Subtitle	Working overtime ----	3"
Scene	Six natives are now engaged in hammering and rolling and smoothing out the bark -- supervised by a foreman, fat and genial, who wears a garment made from this material.	11"
Subtitle	The bad spots are cut out, and fibre thread is used to sew up the finished strips.	9"
Scene	Sewing the pieces of bark strips together, they make one large bolt of cloth ready to be cut into garments.	20"
Subtitle	The finished Lubugo (bark-cloth) is just as thin and pliable as homespun ----	9"
Scene	Shot of them working on the almost finished cloth - they spread it out and it measures about 10 yards.	17"
Subtitle	---- "em-barking" so to speak.	3"
Scene	One of the men drapes the robe around him for fitting - it is large enough to wind around him several times.	16"
Subtitle	STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! A Kavirondo dentist uses no laughing gas.	9"
Scene	Two natives use a primitive method in abstracting teeth from a little boy. They do this by placing a stick protruding from the sides of his mouth behind the teeth to be removed - this prevents the boy from closing his mouth on them.	13"

Subtitle	Aren't you sorry for little Willie?	5ft
Scene	The "dentist" working with a crude forceps is forcing the teeth out, the boy being securely held so as not to struggle and break loose. the boy experiences an intense pain.	12"
Subtitle	Six lower teeth being removed -- that's all. This is to guard against lock-jaw.	10"
Scene	The dentist still working on the boy who is suffering, but it cannot be helped, if he is to live.	13"
Subtitle	Dried white ants are very popular as food -- and furnish good exercise for the natives.	9"
Scene	Native chopping on a huge pile of solid matter with an axe.	9"
Subtitle	These little insects case-harden their homes until they will stop a bullet.	7"
Scene	Native chopping chunks of the hill away.	7"
Subtitle	Doesn't this make your mouth water?	5"
Scene	Closeup of the white ants, disturbed and driven from their homes, swarming all over the hill, scurrying here and there.	11"
Subtitle	When dried and crisp they are not so bad -- if you are used to them. About six thousand are equivalent to a plate of beans.	15"
Scene	Closeup of seven piles of the dried ants, laid out on the breakfast cloth, taking the sun. A bottle of home brew goes with the meal.	9"
Subtitle	Wild honey is also in great favor. The bee hives are hollow logs suspended in trees.	9"
Scene	Shot of bee hive in tree. Native climbing up to get some honey.	18"
Subtitle	---- but the principal food is a steamed Matoke banana dough called "Matoke," prepared with great care.	11"
Scene	View of native women preparing it in front of their hut - they bring out armsful of dried banana leaves and arrange the cooking utensils and line them with banana leaves.	15"
Subtitle	No girl can hope for a husband until she knows how to make "Matoke.	10"
Scene	They now begin stripping bananas of their skins and throw them into a bowl.	17"
Subtitle	---- only green bananas are used.	4"
Scene	Closeup of two bowls - the skins in one and the bananas in the other - nothing is wasted - the preparation goes on.	14"

Subtitle	They wrap it like a hot tamale -----	6ft
Scene	The bowl of bananas is then covered over with large banana leaves and completely wrapped and tied together.	21"
Subtitle	More banana leaves are used to hold in the steam.	7"
Scene	A larger bowl is now used in which the banana package is put and covered over with still more banana leaves.	29"
Subtitle	Water is added and the bananas are cooked to a mush.	7"
Scene	When the bundle is finally tucked in beswathed in banana leaves, they start the fire agoing under the bowl.	21"
Subtitle	Done to a turn and flavored with smoke ----	6"
Scene	The bananas cooked to a turn, they lift the bundle out of the bowl and untie it.	13"
Subtitle	---- and then they sit down and fill up on the mess until they can't see straight.	12"
Scene	The dinner bell is rung, and the family gathers around the dinner-table (on the ground) and down the mush with great relish, conveying the stuff to their mouthes with two fingers.	19"

End Reel 1.

Reel 2.

Fourth Release.

Subtitle	The banana skin has caused the downfall of many, but it is the juice that makes 'em stagger in Uganda.	10"
Scene	Shot of three natives preparing banana drink. They first soak banana pulp in a basin, adding water.	20"
Subtitle	At the straining point.	3"
Scene	The concoction is about ready - the mixing still goes on.	16"
Subtitle	---- not so bad for home brew, is it?	3"
Scene	Four natives are now served drinks and they are very happy.	10"
Subtitle	---- more than 2.75%	4"
Scene	One fellow begins to act wild and silly. The rest keep grinning.	22"

Subtitle	THE PYGMIES.	
	These little ape-like freaks of humanity are the greatest curiosities of the Dark Continent. They live in the gloom of the trackless Congo forests; eat nuts berries and bugs; and in intelligence rank lower than any other people in Africa.	36"
Scene	In the depths of a very dark and gloomy forest they are seated; a company of dwarfs, black, bare and stunted. Close by them is one of their poorly constructed huts, not much of a shelter, were it not for the heavy growths in the forest.	28"
Subtitle	They have no religion; no regard for time; no traditions -- their entire existence is pitched in a minor key.	13"
Scene	Another shot of the family of pygmies. One of them is distributing salt to them -- their favorite delicacy.	18"
Subtitle	---- they would have run away if we had not lured them with salt	5"
Scene	Closeup of the tribe before the hut - a fire is burning - one keeps beating away on a tom tom.	25"
Subtitle	---- it is very hard for them to build a fire -- they keep it for months ----	7"
Scene	Shot of the pygmies seated on the ground around the fire - they keep adding fuel to it. In the forefront is a mother with infant in her lap.	36"
Subtitle	---- one of the little fellows brought in some bananas.	6"
Scene	Pygmy bringing in a bunch of huge green bananas - strung from his neck - he distributes bananas to them and after peeling the skins they are roasted in the fire.	85"
Subtitle	Dr. Vandenberg coaxed them to build one of their tiny huts. It was not as well made as a bird's nest. At night they sleep in little piles like puppées.	19"
Scene	Shot of the doctor at the side, calling to the pygmies to help build the hut - they all fetch branches covered with leaves and begin piling them on the bower-like framework of the hut. It is built very low and near the ground.	43"
Subtitle	After a while they grew to trust us and we led them out into the sunlight for better photography.	12"
Scene	Out in an open clearing, Dr. Vandenberg stands with arms outstretched and pygmies under each arm. This gives us an idea of their size as compared to full grown white men. They now form into a circle around him and begin to do their dance, while he stands with arms outstretched.	29"

Subtitle	Papa stood four feet and four inches ----	6ft
Scene	Shot of a pygmy couple standing under the doctor's arms. The man is the taller of the two.	13"
Subtitle	---- while Mama measured just four feet none -----	3"
Scene	Same shot - the woman carries her papoose.	11"
Subtitle	Now the jungle called they gre restless and we had to bribe them with more salt.	12"
Scene	Group of them seated in front of their hut on the ground, eagerly devouring the ground salt with great relish.	35"
Subtitle	By way of diversion, we let them hit a man-size pipe ---- and see what happened!	9"
Scene	Four of the pygmy men seated near a tree trunk, about to smoke a long stemmed pipe, similar to that used by the American Indians. The oldest takes the first crack at it- he begins to look sick already - the second takes several long pulls and his eyes begin to pop out of his head and he keels over. Three of them already wear the most sorrowful expression on their faces - the pipe is passed to the fourth man.	31"
Subtitle	---- oh, me! Oh, my! ----	3"
Scene	The oldest dares to take another few pulls at the pipe, the second is still lying upon his side up against the tree miserably sick. They finally give up the pipe as a bad job.	29"
Subtitle	The only thing they displayed any skill in at all was with the bow and arrow -- their only weapon.	13"
Scene	Shot of one of them testing out his arrows and bow. He is smiling broadly.	11"
Subtitle	William Tell had nothing on this bunch.	6"
Scene	Shot of the few men of the tribe gathered round the chief marksmen, who let fly some arrows - flash to full shot of the rest of the tribe watching the proceedings from the side lines.	15"
Subtitle	Their target was a banana leaf.	5"
Scene	Same shot - men shooting arrows at banana leaf pinned on tree.	28"
Subtitle	The lump on the inside of the wrist is a cushion to stop the bow string.	9"
Scene	Closeup of two pygmy men with their bows and arrows - both wear broad smiles at all this attention being paid them - they wear a sort of flesh lump on their wrists. One absolutely howls about something that tickles him. He also wears several horse-shoes in his matter hair.	22"

Subtitle	----- the women smiled on their heroes.-----	9ft
Scene	Shot of four of the youthful girls of the tribe - standing in front of a hut, smiling hugely at the men.	7"
Subtitle	It was growing late they were growing restless again and two elders of the tribe smiled as they got a bright idea -----	14"
Scene	Shot of two of the older men also with their bows and arrows, smiling at something.	24"
Subtitle	In our honor they did their Ngoma.-----	6"
Scene	Of the whole tribe doing their Ngoma around Dr. Vandenberg. It is their all in all, this dance -- their only conception of higher Gods.	49"
Subtitle	----- and they did their silly little Ngoma until we thought they would never stop.	11"
Scene	Closeup of the pygmies doing the Ngoma, round and round in a circle continuously, their music, the beating of a tom tom. The dance is led by the eldest as is proper and ends with the youngest members of the tribe.	19"
Subtitle	----- the Pygmy Toddle -----	5"
Scene	Closeup of them still doing the Ngoma.	18"
Subtitle	----- dwindling remnants of a race doomed to extinction.	7"
Scene	Closeup of pygmy mother with infant sleeping soundly in her lap, clutching its mother's breast instinctively.	21"
Subtitle	The End. No.4 Paramount-Vandenberg Wild African Series.	7"

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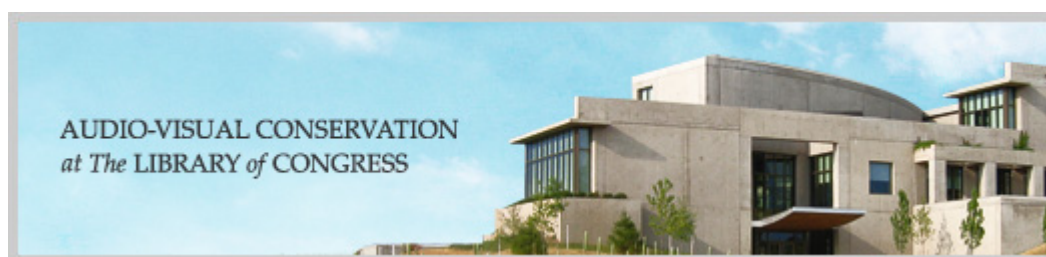
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